



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CMC  
18 Jun 92

WHITE LETTER NO. 10-92

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: All General Officers  
Commanding Officers  
Officers in Charge

Subj: THE CORE VALUES OF THE CORPS

1. Incidents and individual actions contrary to the core values of our Marine Corps involving unethical conduct, lack of self and organizational discipline, excessive use of alcohol, insensitivity to or abuses of human dignity, and violent use of personal weapons are strong challenges to those values which are, and should be, the very underpinnings of our Corps.

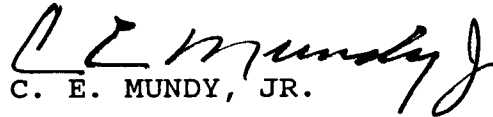
2. Incidents of the foregoing type are not epidemic, nor are those which have occurred the first of their kind; but they are clear signals that we need to take stock of our core values of leadership, ethics, respect for each other, and overall conduct. All Marines must understand that higher adherence to these values is not only expected, it is demanded by our profession.

3. Our Corps must, and will lead the way in assuring that every Marine, as well as others, is accorded a full measure of respect and dignity. The warrior spirit and professional focus we have strived so hard to imbue must not be misunderstood as a replacement for civility and law-abiding behavior. Most of all, leaders in our Corps must lead and teach by example to a standard well above that even expected of subordinates. The fact -- or perception -- that we are doing otherwise, whether valid or not, must be erased.

4. Our Corps is a national institution. The people of the United States expect from us prowess in combat; but equally so, they expect honor, integrity, dedication to ideals, respect for human dignity, and the highest standards in personal and institutional discipline. Any action to the contrary is detrimental to the very image conveyed by the title, Marine. We must ensure that our actions meet not only the expectations of the American People, but our own expectations as well. We must not tarnish our image with substandard leadership and behavior.

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5. I want a renewed, sustained emphasis on ethics, conduct, and human dignity in our Corps. I intend and direct that all Marines focus your priorities on reaffirming and achieving expected standards of ethics, behavior and respect for each other and those around us. To do any less is to be less than a Marine.

  
C. E. MUNDY, JR.